

CITY OF SAN DIEGO
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 10, 2003

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Debra Fischle-Faulk, Community Services Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Clean Syringe Exchange Program – North Park Site to Open

REFERENCE: Clean Syringe Exchange Program Task Force Final Report

On Friday, February 14, 2003, the second of three planned Clean Syringe Exchange Program (CSEP) sites will open. The program will operate out of a mobile unit that will be parked in the area of 30th Street and University in the community of North Park from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

This site was selected in accordance with program guidelines and is acceptable to the CSEP contractor, Family Health Centers of San Diego, the Greater North Park Planning Committee, and 3rd District Council member Toni Atkins. Several community meetings have been held and a number of sites were rejected prior to the final selection of this site. We are aware that some neighboring businesses, residents and organizations oppose the location. As a result, both the program operator and staff are committed to closely monitoring CSEP operations to avoid negative impacts on the community.

The CSEP mobile unit is expected to operate at this site every Friday morning in accordance with guidelines recommended by the Clean Syringe Exchange Task Force and approved by the City Council. The morning hours were selected to minimize any impact on area children who are expected to be in school and not traveling to or from school at this time.

The San Diego Police Department continues to cooperate with the pilot program; a training video on the CSEP has already been shown to Western Division officers. The CSEP web page on the City's web site at www.sandiego.gov is regularly updated with meeting schedules, agenda, minutes and relevant documents and links.

Page 2
Clean Syringe Exchange Program
February 10, 2003

Private tours of the facility can be arranged for Council members and/or their staffs. If you are interested in scheduling a tour or have questions or comments, please contact Special Projects Manager Staajabu Heshimu at (619) 236-6635.

Debra Fischle-Faulk

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cc: Michael T. Uberuaga, City Manager
P. Lamont Ewell, Assistant City Manager
Bruce Herring, Deputy City Manager
Hank Cunningham, Community and Economic Development Director
Staajabu Heshimu, Special Projects Manager